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SUBJECT: CZECHO--LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Roston

1. FOLLOWING WAS FURNISHED ME BY MY FRENCH COLLEAGUE WHOSE INFO AND VIEWS HAVE STOOD UP AS WELL AS ANYBODY'S. CHRONOLOGY COMES FROM NAMED AND RELIABLE SOURCE IN FONMIN.
2. TOUGH MESSAGE FROM SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE ACTUALLY ARRIVED SATURDAY EVENING AND NOT MONDAY MORNING AS GENERALLY REPORTED. DUBCEK DID NOT IMMEDIATELY CONVOKE PRESIDIUM SOME OF WHOM AWAY FOR WEEKEND (IN ITSELF THIS CASTS INTERESTING LIGHT ON DUBCEK'S CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDIUM AS A WHOLE.) PRESIDIUM MET MONDAY, STANDING BY ITS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS FOR BILATERAL TALKS WITH SOVIETS. TASS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOVIETS ACCEPTED CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS SITE CAME AS A SURPRISE IN LATE AFTERNOON.
3. MESSAGE WHICH WAS ECHOED IN PRAVDA MONDAY MORNING CONTAINED THREE MAIN POINTS ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO LALOUETTE THESE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN EXCLUSIVE.
4. FIRST POINT WAS THAT SOVIETS AS SPOKESMEN FOR THE WARSAW FIVE WERE LESS INTERESTED IN EXPLANATION OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THAN IN KNOWING WHAT CZECH COMMUNISTS WERE DOING TO MEET WARNINGS REGARDING ANTI-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. DEEDS NOT EXPLANATIONS WERE REQUIRED.

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5. SECOND POINT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE OPEN STATE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S FRONTIERS WITH THE WEST IN PARTICULAR WEST GERMANY AND AUSTRIA WHERE CONTROL WAS LACKING TO STOP THE ENTRY OF SPIES AND SABOTEURS. REFERENCE SPECIFICALLY MADE TO ARMS CACHE IN WESTERN BOHEMIA BUT THIS APPARENTLY NOT LINKED TO DEMAND FOR PERMANENT STATIONING OF SOVIET TROOPS.

6. THIRD POINT WAS BITTER ACCUSATION CONCERNING RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRCHLIK REGARDING STATUS OF SOVIET TROOPS WHICH WERE DESCRIBED AS TEASER TO WARSAW PACT.

7. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS HAVE CONCERNED TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING AS WELL AS AGENDA. LALOUETTIE THOUGHT LATTER QUESTION WOULD BEAR ON ANSWERS CZECHS WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE TO CHARGES AND ANXIETIES EXPRESSED IN WARSAW LETTER. HE WAS AWARE OF SMRKOVSKY'S PROPOSAL FOR MEETING OF SIX AGAINST SIX BUT DOUBTED WHETHER CZECHS COULD HOLD OUT AGAINST SOVIET INSISTENCE FOR CONVOCATION OF FULL PRESIDIUM. HE THOUGHT CZECHS WERE IN FOR A ROUGH TIME. HAD NO CONFIRMATION LATEST REPORT SOVIET PRESIDIUM ON ITS WAY HERE BY TRAIN.

8. AS REGARDS SOVIET TROOPS, LALOUETTIE THOUGHT FIGURE OF 40,000 CITED TO LUCET IN WASHINGTON [REDACTED] WAS FANTASTIC. HE CLAIMS HIS ATTACHE OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY CZECHS THAT NUMBER AS 16,000. 1.5CC 3-4(b)X4

HE BELIEVES THAT TWO SOVIET REGIMENTS, INCLUDING ARMOR, STILL REMAIN IN EASTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHERE THEY COULD BE EASILY REINFORCED, OBLViating NECESSITY OF FULL SCALE INVASION. ALREADY ONE INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED WITH LOCAL POPULACE (AND LALOUETTIE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO MORE) WHEN SOVIET OFFICER RAPED CZECH WOMAN WHOSE FAMILY WERE APPEASED WITH SOME DIFFICULTY BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

9. BESIDES PRCHLIK, SOVIETS WERE DEMANDING THE HEAD OF INTERIOR MIN PAVEL (AS CONFIRMED BY LATEST PROPAGANDA) WHO HAD CHARACTERIZED ARMS CACHE AS PROVOCATION. ACCORDING TO LALOUETTIE GENERAL PEPICH, FORMER CHIEF ARMY MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY TRANSFERRED TO SLOVAKIA IS ALREADY OUT OF THE ARMY.

10. IN SUMMARY LALOUETTIE WAS FAR FROM OPTIMISTIC AND IF HIS

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INFORMATION IS CORRECT HIS VIEWS BEAR WEIGHT.

1. AS REGARDS TROOP DISPOSITIONS, HOWEVER, WESTERN MAS, *attaché*
INCLUDING FRENCH, AS OF THIS AFTERNOON MORE CONCERNED WITH TWO
SOVIET REGIMENTS JUST ACROSS BORDER IN POLAND. THESE APPEAR TO
BE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT CAMP. TWO REGIMENTS ARE THOSE
FORMERLY LOCATED IN DOUPOU AND LIBAVA TRAINING AREAS. NO
MENTION OR KNOWLEDGE AMONG ATTACHE GROUP OF TWO REGIMENTS ALLEGED
TO BE REMAINING IN SLOVAKIA. INDIAN MA (PROTECT SOURCE) WAS ADVISED
AT NOON THIS DATE IN PERSONAL DISCUSSION WITH LT. COL. KUDRNA,
OFFICIAL USSR MOD SPOKESMAN, THAT OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON
FINAL DEPARTURE ALL TROOPS LIKELY TO BE RELEASED ON JULY 26.

12. PLEASE PASS DIA.

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